### **Communicative Competence**

(Language Proficiency)

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### **Definition**:

In general, communicative competence may be defined as the ability to use language (L2) effectively and appropriately. It is not only the competence of the grammatical rules governing sounds, word forms, and word orders to convey meaning (phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics) but also knowledge of social conventions of language use.

- **e.g.,** How to <u>start</u> and <u>end</u> a conversation smoothly; how to enter a conversation <u>without</u> interrupting other individuals, etc.
- ♣ It was coined by **Dell Hymes in 1966**, against **Chomsky's (1965)** notion of competence that was too limited.
- **♣ Canale & Swain (1980)** defined C.C in terms of **four components**:
- 1. Grammatical C (Words & Rules)
- 2. Sociolinguistic C (Appropriateness)
- 3. Discourse C (Cohesion & Coherence)
- 4. Strategic C (Appropriate use of communication strategies)

#### More details:

- **1. Grammatical C:** is mastering the linguistic code of a language, focuses on sentence-level grammar.
- **2. Sociolinguistic C:** is the knowledge of the socio-cultural rules of language and discourse. This type of competence "requires an understanding of the social context in which language is used: the role of participants, the information they share, the function of the interaction...etc".
- **3. Discourse C:** is the ability to use grammatical competence. The ability to connect sentences in stretches of discourse and to form meaningful utterances.
- **4. Strategic C:** The way we manipulate language in order to meet communicative goals. It can enhance the effectiveness of communication or to compensate for breakdowns.

# **Communicative Competence Components:**

- 1. Grammatical C.
- 2. Sociolinguistic C.
- 3. Discourse C.
- 4. Strategic C.

## **Communicative Competence Aspects:**

A/ Linguistic Aspects: (Function & Structure of the language)

a/ phonology competence (sounds of Ige)

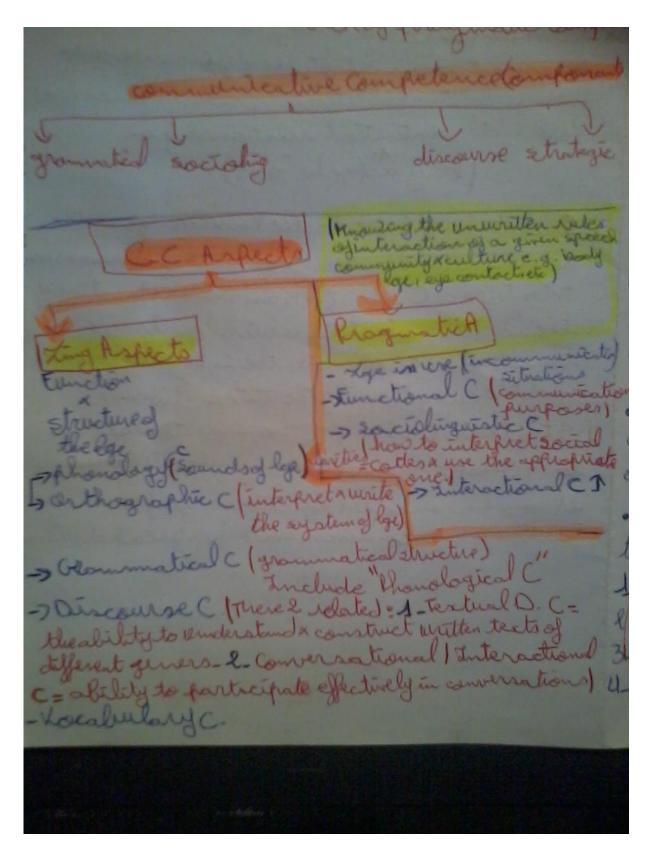
b/ orthographic competence (interpret and write the system of Ige)

- **♣** Linguistic aspects are concerned with:
  - **1. Grammatical C.** (grammatical structure includes "Phonological C")
- 2. Discourse C. (there are two related competences: 1- Textual Discourse C: the ability to understand and construct written texts of different genres. 2- Conversational/ Interactional C: the ability to participate effectively in conversations)
  - 3. Vocabulary C.

B/ Pragmatic Ability: (Ige in use; in communication situations)

is knowing the unwritten rules of interaction of a given speech community & culture. **E.g.**, body lge, eye contact, etc.

- **♣** Pragmatic Ability is concerned with:
  - 1. Functional C. (communication purposes)
- 2. Sociolinguistic C. (how to interpret social varities = codes & use the appropriate one)
  - 3. Interactional C.



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